Overview

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is leading a strategic initiative called Georgia Health-e Connect to design, develop and implement a state-wide certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) system and Health Information Exchange (HIE). This effort will support Georgia's 1.5 million Medicaid members and the more than 10,000 physicians who serve them. This transformation is enabled by establishing interoperable connectivity between key stakeholders such as hospitals, clinics and laboratories.

Health Info Exchange

The state-wide Medicaid EHR will provide Medicaid physicians with a timely, comprehensive and single view of a member's medical information and health history accessible from a secure Web portal. Physician access to this health information will help enable DCH's key imperatives including: **efficient use of health care resources, improved patient safety and care delivery.** Physician practices who secure an available EHR will accrue additional benefits including improved clinical workflow and clinical decision making.

Expected Benefits of Georgia Health-e Connect

Physician practice productivity improvements

- Enhanced ability to provide quality data to other heath care providers

- Improved clinical workflow and documentation

- Reduction in time spent pulling charts, providing information by phone and fax with other physician practices and diagnostic entities

Improvements in clinical outcomes

- Enhanced provider collaboration

- Improved patient safety (e.g. support for drug-drug interaction alerts)

- Reduction in medical errors caused by a lack of relevant information at the point of care

Systemic and population health improvements

- Reduction in redundant diagnostic testing

- Enhanced ability to assess and manage Georgia's population health status

Expected Benefits of Georgia Health-e Connect, continued

Improved patient satisfaction

- Time saved due to availability of records
- Ease of communication with providers who can view patient medical history

Implementation Steps

- **Phase I —** Pilot test in Fall of 2009 with subset of Medicaid providers
- **Phase II —** Implement system enhancements based on evaluation of pilot
- **Phase III —** Secure funding to expand project statewide

Additional Information

For more information on Georgia Health-e Connect or to participate in the program, contact HITT@dch.ga.gov or James Truesdale at jtruesdale@dch.ga.gov.